

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

FINAL

Meeting of March 5, 2008

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Members Present: Kim Bobola, PhD (Chair), Colleen Ionata (Vice Chair), Sheala Durant (Secretary), Bill Strassberger (Parliamentarian), Thomas Aylward, Kimberly Y. Campbell, Will Kenlaw, Prasiddh Sinha, G. Stanley Doore, Allan Mulligan, Kim Jones, John Thomas, Benoy Thomas.

Members Absent: Ismael Gama, Tracy DuPree Davis, Marva R. Deskins, Andre Carl Whisenton.

Members Withdrawn: Jemal A. Cheatham

Staff: Chuck Crisostomo (Assistant Director, EMRSC)

Guests: Jeanette Mendonca (Community Liaison Senator Rona Kramer's office), Dale Tibbitts, (Council member Marc Elrich's office), Frank Caruso (GLCA/BAA/Citizens Involved), Terry Bork (ECRAB Representative), Robert Jepson (WAH), Jere Stocks (WAH), Geoff Morgan (WAH), Eileen Cahill (Holy Cross Hospital), Claire Iseli (Council Office), Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan Committee), Shelby Fishman (WCCAB), Devance Wilson.

Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.

Citizen's Forum: Chair Bobola welcomed everyone. Guests were asked to introduce themselves and identify any issues or concerns that they wished to share with the Board. Additionally, they were requested to state what action they wanted the Board to take.

- **Frank Caruso:** introduced himself and his involvement with the community for over 20 years. Mr. Caruso announced that on March 22nd, he and other volunteers will set up a voter registration station at the Green Castle Lakes clubhouse from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **Dale Tibbitts:** from Councilmember Marc Elrich's office attended the meeting for updates.
- **Barbara Foresti:** (Chair, White Oak Master Plan committee) was in attendance.
- **Terry Bork:** is the East County Recreation Board liaison to ECCAB.
- **Jeanette Mendonca** is the new Community Liaison in Senator Rona Kramer's office. Ms. Mendonca anticipates attending the monthly board meetings, and looks forward to any issue or concerns that need to be addressed by the Senate of Maryland.

Chair Bobola introduced Jeanette Mendonca, from State Senator Kramer's, who then described pending action on Senate Bills 634, 641 and 739, all Senate bills that have to do with gang activity and juvenile matters.

Council Report- Claire Iseli reported that:

- The District 4 office continues to be open for business, and all staff is ready to assist East County residents.
- County Council has approved the details of a Special Election for the vacant District 4 seat.
- The County will hold a primary on April 15, 2008, and a general election on May 13, 2008.
- Due to a timing issue, it will be unlikely that a new District 4 Council member would be seated early enough to have a vote on the budget. It will be imperative that East County pay attention to the budget process to assure that the priorities for East County are not lost in the shuffle.
- The County Executive has proposed funding \$100,000 for Burtonsville Redevelopment in FY09 and \$400,000 in FY10. The funding would go towards major improvements to the Burtonsville commercial area including façade treatment and signage. The PHED Committee is calling for \$100,000 in FY09, \$200,000 in FY10, and \$200,000 in FY11, stretching the funding over 3 years instead of the 2 years initially proposed.
- Discussion is taking place regarding the closing of Maydale School. While there was a lot of support for this environmental education program to continue, all discussion through M-NCPPC and MCPS in managing the upkeep of the facility have been unsuccessful. An amount of \$20,000, at a minimum, is needed for this program to continue.

Chair Bobola: asked if the District 4 on-line newsletter would continue. Claire responded that it would not, and that the newly elected representative would make that long-term decision.

7:34 pm: ECCAB now has 10 members for Quorum.

Chair's Report: Announcements

1. **Letter of sympathy:** was prepared and sent to the Praisner Family from ECCAB.
2. **Danny Jacobs** – The chair saluted and praised Mr. Danny Jacobs for an outstanding job in covering East County events and issues for the Burtonsville Gazette.
3. **HHS Budget Forum** – Announced that HHS will be holding its annual Budget Forum on March 19th at 401 Hungerford Drive.

4. **MCG Trolley Museum:** will be relocated, clear of the path of the ICC.
5. **County Executive's Town Hall Meeting in East County:** will be held on March 20th at 7:30 pm at Briggs Chaney Middle School.
6. **Annual Report** – Chair reported that she and the EMRSC staff have been refining the report, and that it will be released soon.
7. **Proposed name change for all Citizens Advisory Boards:** to be discussed this evening.
8. **White Oak Recreation Center-** Chair reported on the meeting with the County Executive and mentioned that the East County Recreation Advisory Board (ECRAB) had taken a different position than ECCAB had, in requesting that the project be suspended until a new site was found.

Speakers:

Jere Stocks, President, Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), provided an update to the Board on WAH's progress in constructing its new hospital in East County. The update was as follows:

- A hearing has been scheduled for their request for Special Exception (#S2721).
- Construction of the facility would take between 24 and 30 months.
- Traffic analysis/studies would be needed. Woodland and forest conservation plans are underway, along with a natural resources inventory.
- The project will be LEED¹ certified under County regulations.
- The old WAH facility could still be used for medical purposes, but the final decision has not yet been made.
- Mr. Stocks requested that the Board consider writing a letter of support for the hospital project; or if this was not possible, that individual members consider doing the same.

Eileen Cahill- Asked when WAH was going to apply for the Certificate of Need (with the Maryland Health Care Commission). **Mr. Stocks:** replied that WAH needed to finish with the land authorization issues first, and that perhaps next year.

¹ LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System was developed by the United States Green Buildings Council (USGBC). It identifies criteria that positively impact the energy and environmental characteristics of a building, including sustainability of a site, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

Committee Reports

1. Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDIC): Chair Tom Aylward reported that the committee:

- Met with Pierra Weis and Bill Barron, who are senior planners at the Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Silver Spring.
 - The purpose of the meeting was to review roadway and planning networks in East County, and discuss infrastructure projects being planned by SHA and Montgomery County.
 - Additional areas of focus were the development plans on three specific properties: (a) Washington Adventist Hospital; the Bio-Tech incubator at the site of the former WSSC facility and the Percontee property, all in White Oak; (b) Burtonsville area (between Santini Road and Dino Drive); (c) and, the area near the Briggs Chaney Auto Park
 - Touched on affordable housing as an issue needing much more attention.
- Roylene Roberts (Department of Housing and Community Affairs) will be invited to the next Committee meeting for a discussion of Burtonsville Revitalization and the development of the Legacy Plan.
- Tom Aylward will also contact Chris Jones to review the newest plans for the Burtonsville Shopping Center.

2. Services Committee (SC): Chair, Colleen Ionata reported:

- The committee's plans to conduct a Health Fair were being put on hold until they could arrange a community partner.
- The Recreation Department's Regional Supervisor, Colleen emailed Sue Maher to co-plan a forum to seek input from the community on the White Oak Recreation Center.

3. Outreach Committee (OC): Bill Strassberger reported (for Chair Marva Deskins):

- The time change to 7:30 pm for committee meetings.
- A discussion is continuing regarding the ECCAB student-member proposal developed by Kim Jones.
- That the East County Summit is being planned for Saturday, October 18th
- The Outreach Committee is requesting the assistance of board members in disseminating surveys and collecting information via the Issues Survey forms.

- The Adopt-A-Road road clean up was held on Saturday, March 1. The next road clean-up will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

White Oak Recreation Center

- **Chair Bobola:** reported that the site selection for the White Oak Recreation Center was identified as a priority for ECCAB. This priority was conveyed to the County Executive on February 28th. Also, at that time, some members of the East County Recreation Board appealed to the County Executive to re-consider the decision of the site selection committee. In response, the County Executive acknowledged that the site selection had been vetted, and would not recommend going back on the input from the committee.
- **Chuck Crisostomo:** identified the basis of the request to suspend the decision of the site selection committee as related to the terrain. He offered the assurance that the terrain is not a concern, and that a committee has been meeting regularly to address this perceived concern.
- **Claire Iseli:** supported the decision of the site selection, and explained the efforts of the original committee and the options it considered.
- **Councilmember Marc Elrich:** supports the current site, and acknowledged that plans for the center are being developed now. The concern about suspending the site selection is that the project would be sent back in time.
- **Barbara Foresti:** spoke about the large number of residents who live in the apartments near the site selected who will benefit from *this* location of the center, these individuals could walk to the center, and the need for the center is great.
- **John Thomas:** identified additional factors that go into site selections such as fields, tennis courts, more building space, and adequate green space. While it would be ideal to have these extras, it would be in the interest of time and inflationary dollars to build the center now. Additionally, the county should consider in its long-term plans additional sites for fields.
- **Stan Doore:** suggests that the county investigate the option of purchasing a triangular section of land from the FRC behind the Maryland Farms apartment buildings and near Cherry Hill Road for a county recreation facility.

[March 5, 2008 – 1] A motion was made to send a letter in support of keeping the site selection of the White Oak Recreation Center. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

[March 5, 2008 – 2] A motion was made that the County explore the feasibility of a recreation facility in the triangular area in the Federal Research Center, behind Maryland Farms. This was referred to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Adopt-A-Road Program

[March 5, 2008 – 3] A motion was made to eliminate the ECCAB participation in the Adopt-A-Road program. The motion failed (four, in favor; and six, against).

A motion was made regarding the March 29th next cleanup. The motion was not seconded.

Senate Bills on Gangs and Juvenile Matters

[March 5, 2008 – 4] A motion was made that ECCAB support Senate Bills 641 and 634 through Executive Committee and to amend Senate Bill 739 to add a Mental Health professional to the Task Force. The motion was amended and unanimously passed.

Name change of ECCAB

Bill Strassberger: recommended a motion that the name not be changed.

Colleen Ionata: recommended no change

Will Kenlaw: suggested the change from Citizens to Community would be acceptable.

[March 5, 2008 – 5] **A motion was made to** change the name of the East County Citizens Advisory Board to the East County Community Advisory Board. Motion **failed** to change the name of the Board. (9 ayes)

Voter Registration

Chair Bobola: announced voter registration will take place on March 22 at the Club House, Green Castle Lakes, between 9 am and 1 pm, per Frank Caruso.

Councilmember Elrich

Chair Bobola: thanked Councilmember Marc Elrich for coming to the meeting.

Adjournment :

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

The next East County Citizens Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 2, 2008.**